Setting up of Tariff Commission

2375. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Tariff Commission recently;

(b) if so, what is the role of the Tariff Commission and its functions;

(c) whether the Tariff Commission has commenced its work;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the Tariff Commission is likely to commence the work?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The role of the Tariff Commission is to make recommendations on matters referred to it by Government regarding fixation of tariff as also tariff related issues in respect of trade in goods and services taking into consideration the interest of various sectors including production, trade and consumers as also international commitments. The functions of the Commissions, *inter-alia* include sector specific impact analysis, monitoring of the tariff changes, conduct of technical studies on cost of production of different goods and services etc.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Tariff Commission has come into existence with effect from 21st October, 1997 when its first Chairman was appointed.

Status of TAFCO

2376. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited;

(b) whether the Company does not have any title to the immovable properties and the same are being mostly encroached upon by wrongful dwellers;

(c) whether Government have not made any concrete efforts to regularise the matters relating to title to the property and have instead gone for wrongful liquidation process;

(d) whether the employees are not being paid their dues as up-to-date;

(e) whether the SC/ST minorities employees have been rendered redundant for no fault;

(f) whether there is no regular Chief Executive; and

(g) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) Based on BIFR's recommendations, Allahabad High Court on 18.8.98 has ordered winding up of the Company and appointment of Official Liquidator for the purpose. The Division Bench of the High Court *vide* its order dated 24.9.98 has subsequently admitted an Appeal filed against the winding up order.

(b) The Conveyance Deed in respect of the immovable properties has not been executed in favour of TAFCO as the British India Corporation (BIC) had mortgaged the immovable properties with State Bank of India (SBI) as security for the loans it had taken from the Bank. However, TAFCO has undisturbed and uninterrupted possession of the properties since 1969 and has been exercising all rights of ownership over these properties. No incidence of any encroachment of the properties by wrongful dwellers has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The employees/workers of TAFCO have been paid their salary and wages upto 18.8.98, the date of the order of Hon'ble High Court for winding up of TAFCO and appointment of Official liquidator.